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PRESS RELEASE

December 14, 2005

PRIEST SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

RE: UNITED STATES v. MICHAEL VOLINO

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter announced today that Michael Volino, age 42, of Monroe County, New York, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge David G. Larimer to 15 months in prison in connection with his guilty plea to possessing child pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §2252A(a)(5), which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard A. Resnick, who handled the case, stated that Volino was formerly a priest at St. John the Evangelist Church of Greece, 2400 West Ridge Road, Greece, New York. On January 28, 2005, Volino contacted the Diocese of Rochester Information Technology (IT) Help line regarding problems with his computer. As the IT specialist began his exam, he noticed what appeared to be child pornography in the temporary Internet files of the computer. The IT specialist then contacted his supervisor, and subsequently the government was contacted. Volino's computer was then seized. Subsequently, Volino pled guilty in May, 2005 and admitted that he possessed child pornography.

The conviction was the culmination of a joint investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of

Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter Ahearn.